

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 0914Z 181341Z

54

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 181300Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4699

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: PERON MEETS WITH BALBIN AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS ON DEC 14, PERON AGAIN LAID STRESS ON THEME OF NATIONAL UNITY. HE URGED NEED TO LOOK FOR LEADERSHIP IN SO-CALLED MIDDLE GENERATION SINCE YOUTH NOT READY TO TAKE OVER. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DEC 14 PERON MET WITH LEADERS VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES DURING CEREMONIES INAUGURATING CHAMBER IN CASA ROSADA SET ASIDE FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE MET ALONE WITH UCR LEADER RICARDO BALBIN. DURING SHORT SPEECH AT CASA ROSADA AND IN REMARKS TO NEWSMEN FOLLOWING BOTH MEETINGS, PERON AGAIN EMPHASIZED UNITY THEME AND CALLED ON ALL TO HELP GOVT ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS.

3. OF SPECIAL INTEREST, TOO, WAS HIS CONCEPT OF MIDDLE GENERATION. OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID, POWER CANNOT BE PASSED FROM 78 YEAR OLD MAN TO ONE WHO IS 20. LATTER IS TOO GREEN AND FORMER IS PROBABLY OVERRIPE. HENCE, NATION MUST LOOK FOR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN. (COMMENT: THIS EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF MIDDLE GENERATION COULD ENHANCE ROLE OF SUCH FIGURES AS FRANCISCO JULIAN LICASTRO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 0914Z 181341Z

WHO MORE OR LESS FALLS WITHIN THAT CATEGORY.)

4. AT ONE POINT, PERON PRAISED ARGENTINE POLITICIANS AND REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENT THAT CAMPAIGN TO DENIGRATE EFFECTIVENESS OF CIVILIAN POLITICIANS ORIGINATED IN MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS, FIRST AND FOREMOST IN PENTAGON. SEEMINGLY APROPOS OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, HE THEN DECLARED THAT WHOLE WATERGATE AFFAIR IN US HAD BEEN DREAMED UP BY PENTAGON.

5. JUDGING FROM COMPARISON OF STATEMENTS ISSUED SEPARATELY BY TWO, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MEETING OF MINDS IN PERON-BALBIN MEETING. BALBIN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH IDEA OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT CONDITIONS MUST BE PROPITIOUS, A VIEW WITH WHICH PERON AGREED. BOTH EMPHASIZED NEED TO ACCELERATE MOVEMENT IN PRESENTING NEW UNIVERSITY LAW AND NORMALIZING SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY. BOTH PUNTED ON QUESTIONS OF ARMY PROMOTION LIST, SAYING IT OUT OF THEIR HANDS.

6. PERON COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE ANY UPSURGE OF TERRORISM IN PAST WEEKS. (COMMENT: PUBLICLY OF COURSE PERON HARDLY LIKELY TO ADMIT THAT SITUATION NO BETTER AND PERHAPS WORSE SINCE HE CAME TO POWER. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, HE SEEMS WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM).
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